

AUTOLOGOUS HEMATOPOIETIC STEM CELLS TRANSPLANTATION FOR SEVERE REFRACTORY SLE WITH LUPUS NEPHRITIS: REMOTE OUTCOME WITH ALLOGENEIC KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION



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OBJECTIVES

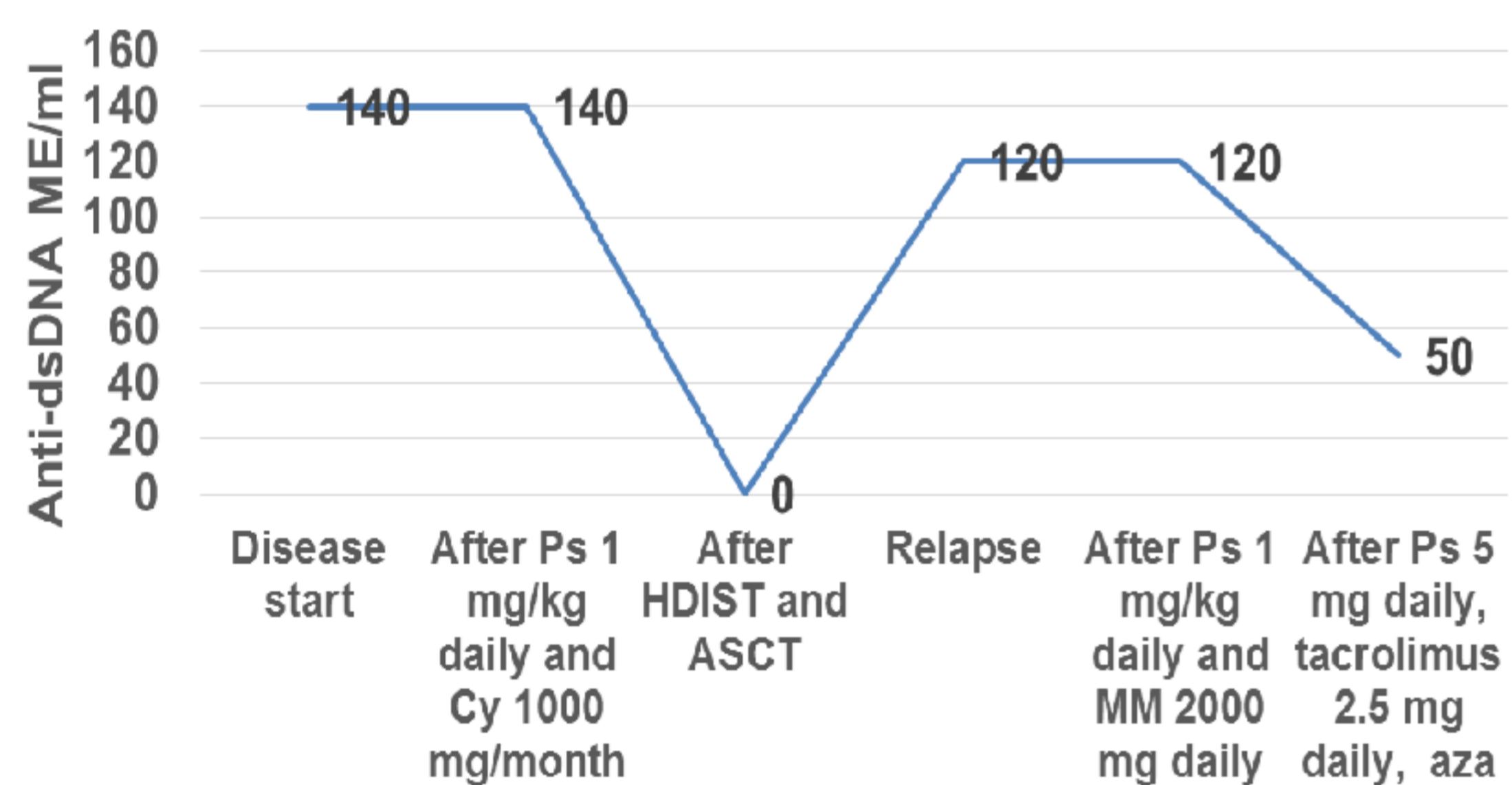
Systemic lupus erythematosus is a severe autoimmune disease that affects multiple organ systems. Lupus nephritis is a common part of the disease associated with pure prognosis. Patients with lupus nephritis who experience persisted disease activity despite conventional immunosuppression are at high risk of early death. Re-setting of the immune system and self-tolerance by high-dose immunosuppressive therapy with autologous stem cell transplantation (ASCT) is a new approach in the treatment of refractory SLE. Remote outcomes of this method and effectiveness relapse treatment are still unclear and were the aims of this study.

METHODS

We report a 33-years woman with refractory severe lupus nephritis (fig.1). The disease start is summarized in table 1. Standard therapy was ineffective, SLEDAI score remains 22, so patient was underwent high dose immunosuppressive therapy (table 2) with ASCT and included in European Group for Blood and Marrow Transplantation European League against Rheumatism (EBMT/EULAR) registry on 53 pts who received ASCT for SLE between 1996 and 2005. Ethical approval was obtained for this study from Cambridge University Hospital ethics committee.

Tabl 2. Hematopoietic stem cell procurement

SLE criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ proteinuria ➢ hematuria ➢ malar rash ➢ arthritis ➢ ANA positivity ➢ anti-dsDNA positivity 	Autologous hemat. stem cells source	peripheral blood
SLEDAI score	23	Mobilisation regimen	Cyclo- 4 g/m ² and granulocyte colony-stim factor at 10mg/kg subcutaneous daily
Lupus nephritis morph. class	IV-G (A) (ISN/RPS, 2003)	Stem cells dose	20.8*10 ⁶ CD 34+ cells/kg body weight
Start therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Pred 1 mg/kg daily ➢ Cyclo- 1000 mg once a month during 1 year 	Manipulations with harvest	none
		Conditionin regimen	Cyclo- 120 mg/kg
		Antithimocyte globulin	none



Tabl 1. The disease start

Figure 2. Anti dsDNA change (ELISA)
Ps – prednisolone, Cy – cyclophosphamide, MM - mycophenolate mofetil, aza - azathioprine

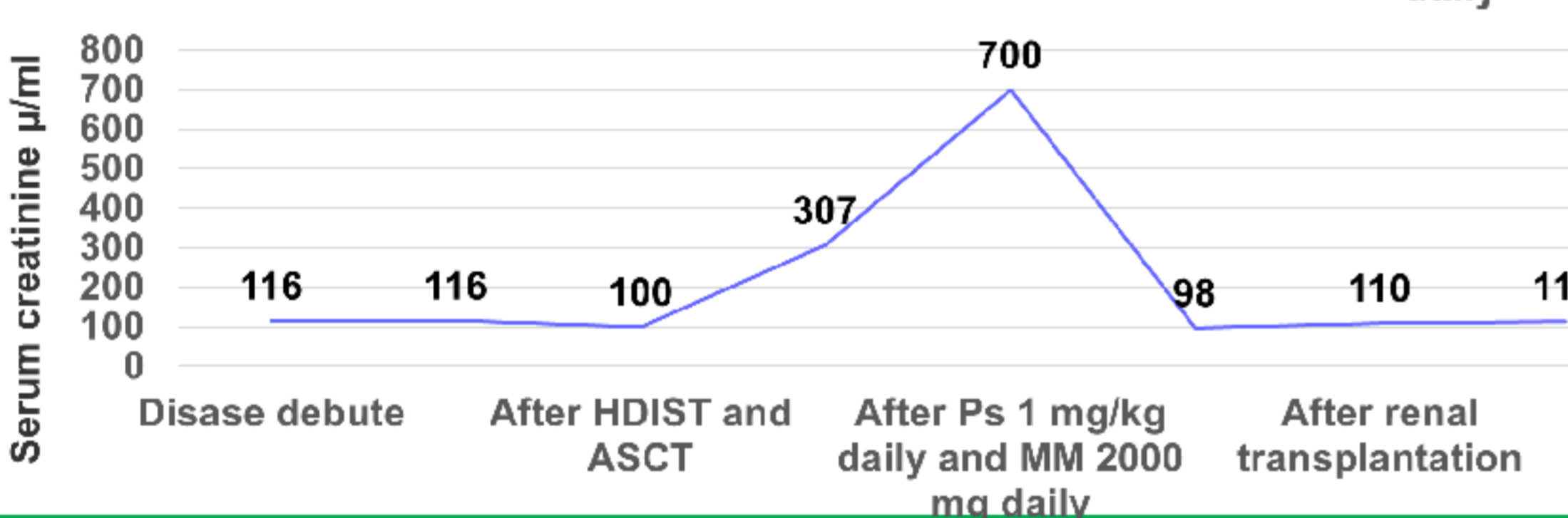


Figure 3. Serum creatinine change
Ps – prednisolone, Cy – cyclophosphamide, MM - mycophenolate mofetil, aza - azathioprine

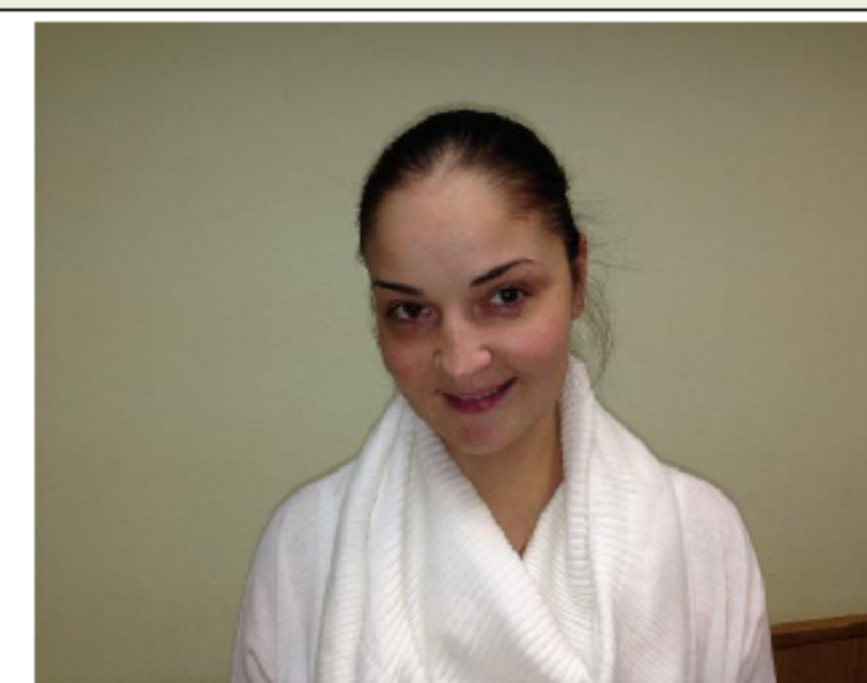


Fig. 3. Pt now - 2 yrs after kidney transplantation.

RESULTS

The ASCT induced complete clinical and serological remission (SLEDAI score was 0) for 3 years.

Then relapse with nephritic syndrome and anti-dsDNA positivity occurred and caused renal failure, creatinine clearance decreased to 21. Despite therapy, including prednisolone, 45 mg daily, and mycophenolate mofetil, 2000 mg daily, disease activity persisted, creatinine clearance remained decreasing and 3 years later became 15 ml/min.

During 1 year patient was on regular hemodialysis, then renal transplantation performed.

Now, follow up is 9 years after ASCT and 2 years after kidney transplantation. Patient received a standard post-transplant immunosuppression with prednisolone, 5 mg daily, tacrolimus, 2.5 mg daily, and azathioprine, 100 mg daily, and her conditions remains stable, she has functioning renal allograft, SLEDAI score is 2 (anti-dsDNA positivity in low titer) (tab. 1, 2, fig.1, 2, 3).

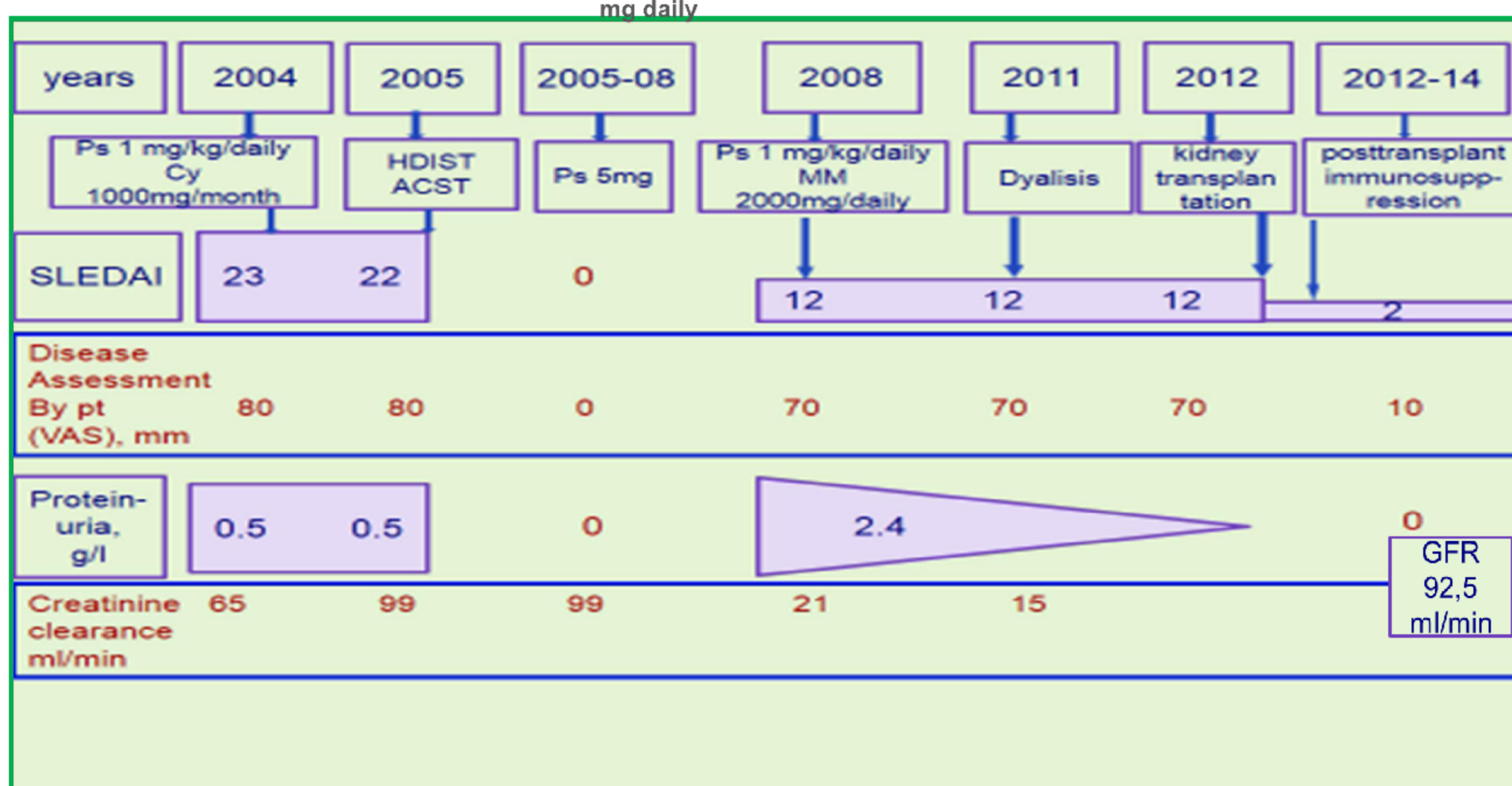


Fig. 1. SLE with refractory nephritis in 33-years woman – a sketch. Ps – prednisolone, Cy – cyclophosphamide, MM - mycophenolate mofetil, aza – azathioprine, GFR – glomerular filtration rate

CONCLUSIONS

We present the first case of immunoablation and successful double transplantation of autologous stem cells and allogeneic kidney in severe refractory to conventional immunosuppression SLE with lupus nephritis.

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